

Successful Kickoff Symposium of Institute of Life and Environmental Sciences (ILES), University of Tsukuba.

We held a kickoff symposium of ILES on December 3, 2014, at the International Conference Room in the University Hall, University of Tsukuba (UT). ILES is established in the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, UT, aiming for the promotion of science and technology that contribute to the creation of susceptible society for the earth and humans. A total of more than 150 people, including those from governmental offices and corporations, attended the symposium.

In the symposium, Professor Tetsuo Hashimoto of the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, UT, and also a member of ILES, talked about the basic researches in ILES. A major part of them will be driven by the "Tree of Life Project", a research initiative to reveal the fundamental principles of life through biological sciences dealing both "model" and "non-model" organisms. Another member of ILES, Professor Hiroshi Ezura of the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, UT, introduced applied researches in ILES by referring to bioengineering researches of tomato and biomass researches of algae in UT. One of the invited speakers, Dr. Christophe Rothan of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), presented an ongoing collaborative research on tomato between INRA and UT. The research had discovered genes that regulate various agriculturally relevant traits of tomato through a genome-wide forward genetic screening. The other invited speaker, Dr. Takema Fukatsu of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), introduced his researches on symbiosis and evolution that had revealed highly elaborate mechanisms of symbiosis and its effects on various biological phenomena.

During the break between talks and a casual mixer after the event, there were many active conversations between the participants. The symposium was successful as a kickoff event of an institute that aims to be a world-class research center, facilitating both academic and social interactions among people who may be involved in the future development of the institute in various ways.



Opening remarks by Kyosuke Nagata, the President of UT.



Prof. Yoshihiro Shiraiwa, the Director of ILES, introducing the institute.



Talk by Prof. Tetsuo Hashimoto.



Talk by Prof. Hiroshi Ezura.



Talk by Dr. Christophe Rothan.



Talk by Dr. Takema Fukatsu.



The floor.



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